

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Original) An electronic camera comprising:
 - an image-capturing element that captures an image of a subject and outputs image data of the captured subject image;
 - a compression processing unit that compresses the image data by converting the image data to a spatial frequency DC component and a spatial frequency AC component and by quantizing and coding the two components, wherein:
 - said compression processing unit includes:
 - a quantization ratio determining processing unit that determines a ratio of a DC component quantization step and an AC component quantization step (DC/AC quantization ratio) in correspondence to a target compression rate;
 - a quantization adjustment processing unit that makes an adjustment on said DC component quantization step and said AC component quantization step while sustaining the DC/AC quantization ratio at a substantially constant value; and
 - a compression rate control processing unit that controls said quantization adjustment processing unit so that a compression code volume resulting from the compression can be within a range according to a target compression rate.
2. (Original) An electronic camera according to claim 1, wherein:
 - said quantization ratio determining processing unit adjusts the DC/AC quantization ratio to a smaller value as the target compression rate is set higher.
3. (Original) An electronic camera according to claim 1, wherein:

said quantization ratio determining processing unit fixes the DC/AC quantization ratio at a constant value regardless of the target compression rate when the target compression rate is set higher than a predetermined value.

4. (Currently Amended) An A computer-readable recording medium that stores an image processing program for compressing image data by quantizing and coding a DC component and an AC component, the image processing program comprising instructions to perform:

DCT processing in which the image data are converted to a spatial frequency DC component and a spatial frequency AC component;

quantization ratio determining processing in which a ratio of a DC component quantization step and an AC component quantization step (DC/AC quantization ratio) is determined in correspondence to a target compression rate;

quantization adjustment processing in which said DC component quantization step and said AC quantization step are adjusted while sustaining the DC/AC quantization ratio at a substantially constant value; and

compression rate control processing in which control is implemented on the quantization adjustment processing so that a compression code volume resulting from the compression can be within a range according to a target compression rate.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Cancelled)